

Introduced by Senators Wolk and Nielsen**(Principal coauthors: Senators Berryhill, Cannella, and McGuire)**

(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo, Dodd, and Frazier)

(Coauthors: Senators Gaines, Galgiani, Morrell, Stone, and Vidak)

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Bigelow, Chávez, Dahle, Gallagher, Gray, Lackey, Levine, Linder, Melendez, Olsen, Patterson, Steinorth, and Waldron)

February 13, 2015

An act relating to fish and wildlife, making an appropriation therefor, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 234, as introduced, Wolk. Wildlife management areas: payments.

Existing law requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife, when income is derived directly from real property acquired and operated by the state as a wildlife management area, as defined, to pay annually to the county in which the property is located an amount equal to the county taxes levied upon the property at the time title to the property was transferred to the state, and any assessments levied upon the property by any irrigation, drainage, or reclamation district.

This bill would appropriate \$19,000,000 from the General Fund to the department to make payments to counties for unpaid amounts under these provisions.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Section 1504 of the Fish and Game Code requires that
4 payments be made to counties equal to the property taxes
5 previously levied on property held by the Department of Fish and
6 Wildlife pursuant to that section.

7 (b) No payments have been made to counties pursuant to Section
8 1504 of the Fish and Game Code since the 2001–02 fiscal year
9 when a partial payment was made.

10 (c) Counties are now owed approximately nineteen million
11 dollars (\$19,000,000) for the unpaid payments.

12 (d) If this property were owned by a private party, a county
13 could sell the property to recoup unpaid property taxes.

14 (e) Because the sale of this state-owned property is not an option
15 for a county, the state should fulfill its statutory obligation and pay
16 the current and unpaid amounts.

17 (f) To that end, an appropriation is needed to meet the
18 obligations of the Department of Fish and Wildlife incurred
19 pursuant to Section 1504 of the Fish and Game Code since the
20 2001–02 fiscal year.

21 SEC. 2. The sum of nineteen million dollars (\$19,000,000) is
22 hereby appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Fish and Wildlife, to make payments to counties for unpaid
24 amounts incurred pursuant to Section 1504 of the Fish and Game
25 Code.

26 SEC. 3. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the
27 immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety within
28 the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into
29 immediate effect. The facts constituting the necessity are:

30 In order for the fiscal arrangements made by this act to be
31 operative at the commencement of the 2015–16 fiscal year, it is
32 necessary for this act to take effect immediately.

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